



Crop Weather Report

Issue: 09-03

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Released: Mar. 30, 2009

Issued: Weekly: Apr-Oct

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For the Month Ending:

Monthly: Nov-Mar

Mar. 31, 2009

Weather Summary

Most of Montana received moderate precipitation for the month of March. White Sulphur Springs received the most monthly accumulated precipitation with 3.16 inches. Bozeman received a record high precipitation on March 29 of 0.44 of an inch, breaking the old record of 0.39 of an inch set in 1967. Billings had a record snowfall of 3.5 inches on the 25th, breaking the previous record of 3.0 inches set in 1948. Temperatures during the month of March were slightly below normal. Highs ranged from 40s to 70s and lows ranged from minus thirties to positive teens. Broadus had the high temperature during the month of 77 degrees, and Scobey had the low temperature of negative 33 degrees. Topsoil moisture adequate and surplus is 85 percent, above last month's 83 percent and much higher than last year's 30 percent. Subsoil moisture adequate and surplus is 74 percent, above last month's 62 and last year's 24 percent.

The weather outlook for April 6th through April 12th is for above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation east of the continental divide and for near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation west of the divide. Normal temperatures for this period in Montana are highs in the mid 40s to the mid 50s and lows ranging from the upper teens to the lower 30s.

According to the NRCS, snowpack on March 1st was 85 percent of average and 77 percent of last year west of the continental divide. Snowpack was 90 percent of average and 88 percent of 2007 east of the divide. Mountain snow water content statewide was 87 percent of average and 81 percent of last year. Spring streamflow is forecasted to average 76 to 89 percent.

Livestock Report

Livestock birthing for both cattle and sheep are behind last year. Only 40 percent of pastures are open for grazing compared to 69 percent last year. Grazing has not been possible in many areas as cold weather and snow cover have not allowed grass to green. Producers in the north central district are hoping they have enough hay supplies to last until the grass does green up.

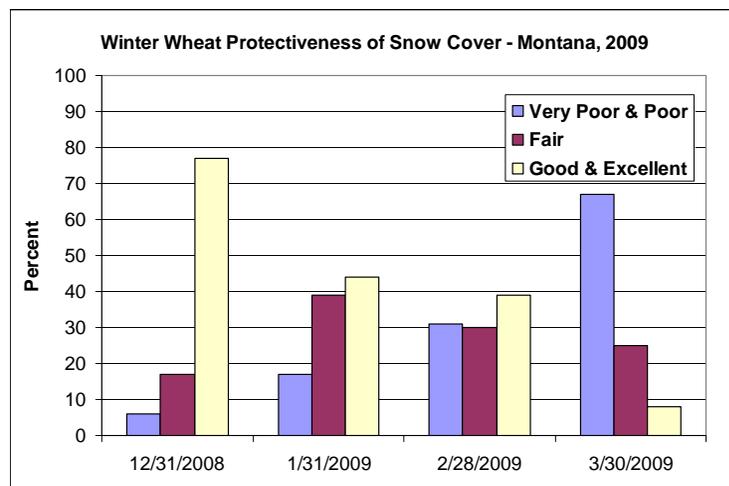
Range & Livestock Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
Livestock Birthing			
Calving Completed	52	20	53
Lambing Completed	30	9	40
Livestock Grazing			
Open	40	28	69
Difficult	41	45	15
Closed	19	27	16
Livestock Receiving Supplemental Feed			
Cattle and Calves	90	94	96
Sheep and Lambs	93	96	96

Soil Moisture Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	4	2	29
Short	11	15	41
Adequate	74	78	29
Surplus	11	5	1
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	8	14	30
Short	18	24	46
Adequate	70	60	23
Surplus	4	2	1

Field Crops Report

Snow cover during the month of March was mostly poor. Recent warm temperatures during the last couple weeks caused snow cover to melt. Winter wheat damage from wind, freeze, and drought has been light to none. Eighty-two percent of winter wheat is still dormant, compared to 71 percent last year. Winter wheat conditions declined since last month but are better than last year.

Crop Condition Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
Winter Wheat			
Very Poor	1	1	4
Poor	3	4	11
Fair	40	36	51
Good	52	55	31
Excellent	4	4	3
Winter Wheat- Wind Damage			
None	62	65	37
Light	33	27	37
Moderate	4	6	24
Heavy	1	2	2
Winter Wheat- Freeze and Drought Damage			
None	53	63	38
Light	37	30	41
Moderate	9	6	20
Heavy	1	1	1
Winter Wheat- Protectiveness of Snow Cover			
Very Poor	24	7	47
Poor	43	24	22
Fair	25	30	20
Good	6	27	9
Excellent	2	12	2
Winter Wheat- Spring Stages			
Still Dormant	82	n/a	71
Greening	17	n/a	28
Greening & Growing	1	n/a	1



THIS INFORMATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/>

Completed and Summarized by:
USDA, NASS, Montana Field Office

In conjunction with: MSU Extension Agents
USDA County Service Centers

Weather Information for the month ending 03/29/2009

Station	Temperature				Precipitation March			Precipitation October 1 to date		
	Hi	Low	Avg	DFN	Total	DFN	% Nrm	Total	DFN	% Nrm
NORTHWEST										
Alberton	65	2	34	-5	1.71	+0.81	190	11.55	+5.87	203
Anaconda	61	-1	32	-3	3.13	+2.17	326	8.56	+4.26	199
Clinton	61	1	34	+2	1.59	+0.86	218	6.59	-0.86	88
Corvallis	66	6	35	-5	0.90	+0.28	145	5.03	+0.85	120
Creston	54	-12	30	-5	1.26	+0.05	104	8.07	-0.03	100
Deer Lodge	61	-2	30	-5	0.80	+0.35	178	3.34	+0.95	140
Drummond	61	-2	32	-4	1.56	+0.87	226	6.89	+2.44	155
Hamilton	68	7	34	-4	0.96	+0.14	117	7.09	+1.39	124
Kalispell	56	-7	32	-4	0.81	-0.24	77	7.48	-0.27	97
Missoula	63	5	35	-3	0.95	+0.05	106	5.96	+0.28	105
Olney	57	-14	25	-7	0.93	-0.33	74	10.75	-1.00	91
Polson	58	-2	32	-6	0.84	-0.12	88	5.55	-0.79	88
St Ignatius	66	-8	33	-7	1.54	+0.46	143	8.30	+2.19	136
Seeley Lake	58	-21	30	-3	2.01	+0.77	162	14.83	+3.31	129
Sula	60	-1	30	-4	1.63	+0.72	179	6.58	+0.60	110
Superior	63	2	37	-4	1.26	+0.08	107	9.82	+1.57	119
Swan Lake	58	-13	29	-4	1.80	-0.04	98	14.81	-1.65	90
Thompson Falls	63	2	37	-4	2.24	+0.56	133	13.03	-0.39	97
West Glacier	53	-10	29	-5	2.10	+0.37	121	15.18	-0.34	98
NORTH CENTRAL										
Chester	62	-24	26	-6	0.35	-0.12	74	5.29	+2.95	226
Chinook	61	-22	24	-7	0.03	-0.49	6	3.16	+0.16	105
Choteau	63	-18	30	-5	0.70	+0.40	233	2.56	+0.84	149
Cut Bank	63	-16	28	-3	0.48	-0.03	94	1.37	-1.01	58
Ft Assiniboine	63	-21	25	-8	0.04	-0.56	7	3.99	+0.83	126
Fort Benton	69	-19	30	-8	0.47	-0.32	59	3.88	+0.30	108
Goldbutte	64	-30	29	-4	0.22	-0.42	34	2.66	-0.39	87
Harlem	58	-19	26	-7	0.28	-0.06	82	3.28	+0.87	136
Havre	62	-20	26	-6	0.06	-0.60	9	2.71	-0.35	89
Malta	59	-18	28	-3	0.37	-0.18	67	4.04	+1.15	140
Rudyard	60	-19	25	-8	0.20	-0.20	50	3.50	+1.70	194
Shelby	64	-23	29	-4	0.66	+0.05	108	2.92	+0.04	101
Turner	60	-24	24	-7	0.22	-0.15	59	2.35	+0.14	106
Valier	63	-20	29	-5	1.16	+0.70	252	2.96	+0.71	132
NORTHEAST										
Bredette	49	-24	22	-8	0.14	-0.31	31	4.61	+2.26	196
Culbertson	56	-23	24	-8	0.07	-0.38	16	4.16	+1.55	159
Glasgow	61	-19	26	-5	0.16	-0.27	37	3.20	+0.70	128
Glendive	68	-15	32	+1	0.24	-0.27	47	3.19	+0.07	102
Jordan	69	-11	31	-3	0.15	-0.42	26	3.47	+0.22	107
Nashua	61	-18	27	-7	0.00	-0.36	0	3.62	+1.41	164
Opheim	45	-26	19	-8	0.04	-0.32	11	2.88	+0.79	138
Plentywood	50	-27	21	-9	0.00	-0.57	0	4.37	+1.68	162
St Marie	53	-19	25	-6	0.09	-0.34	21	1.64	-0.86	66
Scobey	49	-33	21	-7	0.16	-0.34	32	4.16	+1.96	189
Sidney	66	-15	29	-4	0.16	-0.36	31	3.75	+0.35	110
Wolf Point	60	-21	24	-8	0.08	-0.38	17	1.87	-0.72	72
CENTRAL										
Cascade	61	-13	31	-3	0.96	+0.29	143	3.64	+0.21	106
Grass Range	65	-13	33	-2	0.87	-0.04	96	5.43	+1.26	130
Great Falls	65	-14	32	-2	0.59	-0.34	63	4.25	-0.05	99
Harlowton	64	-16	30	-5	0.80	+0.13	119	3.52	+0.25	108
Helena	62	-10	33	-3	0.93	+0.35	160	3.56	+0.49	116
Lewistown	65	-11	31	-1	0.07	-1.01	6	3.22	-1.94	62
Martinsdale	63	-21	30	-3	1.38	+0.73	212	4.43	+1.19	137
Neihart	60	-17	29	-4	1.20	-0.06	95	6.53	+0.28	104
Rogers Pass	63	-24	29	-4	0.89	-0.16	85	5.16	+0.08	102
Roundup	72	-21	35	-3	0.68	+0.10	117	4.24	+1.06	133
Ryegate	64	-15	31	-2	0.67	+0.11	120	3.74	+0.64	121
Stanford	65	-12	31	-4	1.28	+0.38	142	4.41	+0.06	101
Townsend	63	-15	32	-6	1.21	+0.71	242	3.24	+0.81	133
Valentine	65	-15	30	-3	0.10	-0.57	15	3.81	+0.46	114
Wht Sulphur Spr	59	-18	29	-4	3.16	+2.38	405	6.75	+3.24	192
SOUTHWEST										
Boulder	58	-13	29	-4	0.98	+0.50	204	3.76	+0.99	136
Bozeman	57	-10	31	-5	1.71	+0.69	168	5.20	+0.25	105
Butte	56	-7	29	-2	0.63	-0.14	82	2.84	-0.84	77
Dillon	59	-8	30	-5	1.26	+0.77	257	2.39	+0.23	111
Ennis	63	-8	32	-4	1.37	+0.56	169	3.68	-0.11	97
Lakeview	51	-3	26	+1	1.55	-0.11	93	6.37	-0.84	88
W Yellowstone	60	-5	27	+3	1.87	+0.15	109	9.13	-1.96	82
Wisdom	59	-22	26	-1	1.55	+0.94	254	5.69	+1.71	143
SOUTH CENTRAL										
Billings	68	-8	35	-2	0.96	-0.06	94	5.08	+0.01	100
Cooke City	61	-6	30	+8	1.59	-0.29	85	4.99	-6.87	42
Gardiner	65	-2	35	-2	0.44	-0.15	75	2.43	-0.68	78
Hardin	74	-11	37	-2	0.23	-0.38	38	3.14	-0.76	81
Huntley	70	-20	33	-4	0.73	-0.10	88	5.47	+1.21	128
Hysham	71	-18	34	-3	0.27	-0.49	36	5.45	+1.63	143
Joliet	65	-11	32	-4	1.31	+0.14	112	5.08	-0.33	94
Livingston	66	-17	33	-3	0.93	+0.16	121	2.50	-1.86	57
Nye	65	-16	33	-4	2.36	+1.33	229	6.26	+1.13	122
Rapelje	66	-13	32	-4	1.16	+0.22	123	4.51	-0.06	99
SOUTHEAST										
Albion	74	-12	28	-2	1.37	+0.91	298	7.18	+4.22	243
Baker	73	-17	28	-4	0.46	-0.25	65	3.04	-0.89	77
Broadus	77	-14	35	-1	1.42	+0.63	180	5.53	+1.53	138
Ekalaka	69	-23	30	-3	2.10	+1.37	288	6.89	+2.15	145
Miles City	75	-13	33	-2	0.22	-0.30	42	2.79	-0.65	81
Plevna	72	-24	30	-3	0.57	-0.14	80	4.21	+0.28	107

Compiled by AWIS, Inc. based on NWS data. DFN - Departure from normal 1971-2000.